

NOTE

MARXISM TODAY ON THE INCREASE

Paul Webster writes: This month *Marxism Today* celebrates the first anniversary of its new format. During the past year, important gains have been made in the circulation of the journal, and monthly sales are now consistently over 500 higher than they were a year ago. While this particular issue will be an all-time record — with a print run of 10,000.

The subscription offer introduced earlier this year was particularly successful, and home subscriptions have increased by over 200 since last October. The leaflet announcing the offer has been used widely throughout the labour and progressive movement, with particular effect at trade union conferences. Two people were each able to win 10 new subscribers at the AUEW TASS and NGA annual conferences respectively, and a number of delegates at the recent TUC in Brighton were involved in widening our readership among trade unionists.

Contributions to *Notes* (brief please) are welcome. We need copy before the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Marxism Today is now sold in greater numbers at a wider range of bookshops than ever before. Our sales have more than doubled in this area. It is also sold for the first time through newsagents, although as yet this is limited to central London. Readers can help in this respect by writing to the editorial office with suggestions of newsagents in their locality which they consider suitable for the sale of *Marxism Today*.

We have recently embarked on a campaign to increase the circulation to Communist Party members directly through the branches. *Marxism Today* is the theoretical journal of the Party — it contributes much to discussion within the Party, and draws much of its material from Party members. To ensure that this relationship is maintained and developed, it is crucial that *Marxism Today* is widely read and used throughout the Party.

Marxism Today has a growing reputation on the Left as a journal of political analysis — this must be reflected in a continually growing readership. Over the past year, it has provided the most exhaustive analysis of the phenomenon of Thatcherism and the fight-back to appear in the pages of the Left's

theoretical press; if the lessons of this debate are to be used in practical political activity, then the circulation of the journal must increase and more people must be drawn into discussion. For a journal with limited resources, you, the readers, are a vital element in this process. Help us to sustain the improvements made over the last year by doing everything possible to win new, regular readers of *Marxism Today*.

JACKWODDIS

As we went to press, we heard of the death of Jack Woddis. Jack was the Head of the International Department of the Communist Party and a regular and long-standing contributor to *Marxism Today*. He wrote on a very wide range of issues — from Third World questions to problems of political strategy in Britain. His output was immense and impressive. Jack's death has robbed the Communist Party, the British Left and the international communist movement of an outstanding political leader, thinker and writer. For *Marxism Today*, he was a constant source of advice, help and encouragement. He will be deeply missed.